WASHINGTON, D. C., MONDAY MORNING, SEPTEMBER 24, 1877.

PENSION FRAUDS.

MORE LIGHT UPON THE WORKINGS OF THE PENSION BUREAU.

appropriation of \$40,000 is made for this specific purpose.

The permicionaness of this system of details, and the abuses to which the fund created by Congress for the detection and prevention of fraud is subjected, was sufficiently and specifically illustrated in the case of Mr. Lanston, the present chief of the Special Service Division, during the recent controversy between him and T. P. Kane, ex-special agent of the Pension bureau, through the NATIONAL REPUBLICAN; but when the fact is taken into consideration that the instances of abuse referred to were those only of one individual and that hundreds of similar instances, equally fraudulent in character, can be cited to show a further prostitution of this fund, the amount thus perverted from its proper clannel reaches.

tense of investigating it on any one of his many journeys at the expense of the special service fund.

The abuses practiced by Gen. Baker were permitted and were freely indulged in by his favorite subordinates, and were not confined aloue to employees of the Pension bureau, as the records of the special service division bear evidence of the fact that chief clorks of the Interior Department, clerks of the disburding office. Solicitor's office and other branches of the Secretary's office have pleasured about during the summer months at the expense of this fund, in violation of the express provisions of the law, which only authorizes the detail of clerks in the Pension office.

When Commissioner Atkinson assumed control of the bureau, on the 1st of May, 1875, as Gen. Baker's successor, he discovered such outrageous abuses of the special service fund that he at once discontinued a system so fraught with evil and consigned the work of investigating these supposed fraudulent pension claims to the regular force of agents appointed for this specific purpose, and otherwise reformed the service; but when the present Commissioner, J. A. Bently, succeeded in turn as based of the Pension bureau he at once restored the old order of things, revived the custom of office details, and thus the same abuses and irregularities which existed under the laker regions are in full force and are carried on with impunity to-day, not withstanding the fact that the attention of the Serviery of the Interior has repeatedly been called to the matter.

The last published samual report of Commissions of the same abuses and content of the content of Commissions of

Government during the year through the operations of the special service division, is, as before stated through the columns of THE INFORMATICALLY.

MINISTRANCE AS TO DESCRIPTION OF AS TO DESCRIPTION OF THE COLUMN OF THE COLUMN

to year since 1874, when it is well known that the average first payment in pension cases has grown less year by year aince 1874, and in 1870, the year covered by Commissioner Bentelley's report, it did not exceed one hundred dollars per case.

It will be observed further that the special sorvice division is credited with having receivered in each during the year \$8,508.11, of which sum \$7,402.81 was covered into the United States Treasury, and the balance returned to the parties from whom it was obtained.

A FALSE STATEMEN

United States Treasury, and the balance returned to the parties from whom it was obtained.

A FALSE STATEMENT.

The special agents of the Pension bureau had nothing whatever to do with the recovery of this money, as it was recovered by the regular clerical force of the office in the claims of renarried widows who continued to draw pensions for four or five years after remarriage as widows of the soldiers on account of whose service and death they were pensioned, and the recovery of this coverpayment was secured through the United States pension agent on whose roll they were borne by deducting the amount overpaid the widow from the first payment made to her as guardian of the unitor children; or, in other words, the pension agent transferred on his books to the credit of the guardian the amount overpaid the widow from the first payment transferred on his books to the credit of the guardian the amount overpaid the widow.

There is not one cent of money recovered by this trainsaction, and the United States Treasury is in no sense whatever the gainer, as the guardian in the minors' claim by this transfer agrees to accept payment from the date of Inst payment to the widow's remarriage, as entitled under the law. But this item of alleged saving is seized by the special service division as an offset to the expenses incurred by some favorite detail while viewing and writing up a description of Niagara Falls or picturing the seenery along the Hudson while floating leisurely down that river at the rate of ten cents per nile and four dollars per dien. If any saving to the Government can be recovery of money at all was effected by the arrangement abave described, to the widow's division of the Pension office alone belongs the cases in which these reductions of the second turber that \$1,769.90 was saved to the Government through the operations of the special extrement of the minors' claim. It is claimed further that \$1,769.90 was saved to the Government through the operations of the special extrement of the minors' claim. I

purities of the Pension bureau, and it is a well-known fact to every person connected with the bureau, and one which the records of the Treasury Department will bear witness, that thousands of dollars of this money were used by Gen. Baker, while Commissioner of Pensions, in Deplaying the Private Traveling Expensions, in Deplaying the Private Traveling Expension of the Pension Bureau falled to show that he ever rendered or pretended to render any service whatever for the money drawn, as in no single instance did he take a pension claim with him, even under the pretended in the pension bursau, as described and were freely indulged in by his favorite subordinates, and were not confined about to employees of the Pension Bursau falled to show that he ever rendered or pretended to render any service whatever for the money drawn, as in no single instance did he take a pension claim with him, even under the pretended to render the pretended to render the pretended to render the pretended to the pension bursau, as developed a prefer developed to the pension bursau, as done to employees of the Pension bursau, as done to employees of the Pension bursau, as done to employees of the Pension bursau, as done to every person tender to their action, but were not ever in the bands of a special agent, and the reduction of the examining surgeons, before in them is in no names due to their action, but were never in the bands of a special agent, and the reduction of the examining surgeons, before in them is in no names due to their action, but were never in the bands of a special agent, and the reduction of the examining surgeons, before in them is in no names of use to their action, but were never in the bands of a special agent, and the reduction of the examining surgeons, before in the bands of the examining surgeons. Before in the intension in them is in no names of the examining surgeons, before in the bands of the theory in the model camination of the examining surgeons. Before in the intension in them is in no names of the ex

vestigated by the special service division it is shown that but 513 of that number were adversely reported upon, leaving a balance of 2,120.

The average cost of investigation of those 2,633 pension claims is \$15,56 per case, and while at this rate it cost but \$40,982,28 to investigate the 131 cases adversely reported upon, it cost \$83,142,80 to investigation was unuscessarily incurred. Of the 200 names dropped from the pension roll fully 150 af the claims included in that number were never in the hands of an agent, and the dropping of their names is in no manner due to their action.

Of all the bureaus of the several executive departments none is of more importance and none more sadly needs a thorough reorganization and reform in its management than does the Pension bureaus. Commissioner Bently may be an honest, painstaking and considerations officer; he may or may not have been a success as the legal adviser of a narrow gauge railway in the wilds of Wisconsiu, but his administration of the Pension bureau has clearly demonstrated the fact that a Government bureau, especially one of the importance and magnitude of the Pension bureau, cannot be run upon the narrow gauge principle.

LIQUOR LICENSES.

FIFTY MEMBERS

The glory of the Marine band is negrly at an end, and the pride of the District will be reduced to utter insignificance unless Congress comes to our relief. The Secretary of the Navy, in the interest of economy and by a strict interpretation of the law, has issued an order that the band shall be reduced from the lat of October next to thirty pieces and one leader, as provided for by Congress at the formal organization of the band in 1891. This allows for seven first-class musicians, eight second-class and fifteen third-class—thirty in all. The salaries are also reduced to the standard fixed by Congress, which is so low as to preclude all possibility of retaining any talent, even of an ordinary order, and its effects will be the dismemberment of the band as at present composed, and to sink it below the common level.

The number was fixed at thirty members.

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level.

The number was fixed at thirty members,
divided into first, second and third-class masicians, with pay as follows: First class, \$34;
second class, \$28; third class, \$17. Rations
were also provided and made on an average \$5
per month more to each man. Subsequently
and Saturday affermons at the Capitol and
President's grounds. During the administration of Mayor Waltach, the corporation of
Washington also added 35 cents a day to each
man as artisan. In course of years material
changes occured in the band, both as to numbers and compensation. As it is new constituted, the band has two leaders and fifty musicians, and their pay, including all emoluments other than civil contracts, is as follows:
Leader, \$118; first class, (including second
leader.) \$22; second class, \$47; third class,
which includes the twenty extray. \$41.

The band as it now stands consists of two
leaders and fifty members, twenty of whom
were savungded in through the efforts of
Major Nicholson and others with the
pay of sergeants. There is no provision made
for them, whatever, by Congress, and though
their emistment has had a good effect in impraving their music, it was done without any
color of law. There was nothing stricitly illegal about it, and it did not increase the expense of the Marine corps. It only approprinted money to one branch that belonged to
another. While the band has been in existence, ever since the creation of the Marine
corps, it was never anything more than a
regular army band of about ten to filteen
that time, but is entirely inadequate for the
payarout cost of living.

The pay provided was considered and the
National Capital, and gave it the benefit of
apocial legislation. The appropriation of the
band, while subject to the order of the Navy
Department, is directly und

THE MARINE BAND.

THE PROPOSED REDUCTION AND PROBABLE DISSOLUTION.

SOME FACTS ABOUT THE ORGANIZATION OF THE BAND—HOW SCHNEIDER CAME TO BE LEADER, AND ROW IT CAME TO HAVE FIFTY MEMBERS.

Their execution now it available to the marine band, which now looks more than probable.

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VICTORY FOR THE TROOPS SITTING BULL STILL NORTH OF THE LINE.

The following has been received:

CHICAGO, Sept. 23.

The following has been received:

Further and the following has been received:

Further and the following for the full september is, the following has been received:

Further and the following for the full september is, that in the fight of the this nand partial of the tith and 15th twenty dead warriers were found. He believes more were killed. He extinates the loss in wounded at sixty. His own loss was French, Nicholson and Grasham wounded slightly. Further adders were killed and twelve was french, Nicholson and Grasham wounded slightly. Further adders were killed and twelve the following has been been been been and the own horse. The command had been living four days on nucle next.

The drows are returning to the assume the following for the little.

general them any longer. The Crobs was Selfress and the Noel Parces comps were only sight miles are all the self that they have surrendered. Best and the Selfress of the Self

SPECIE PAYMENTS.

WHATSECRETARY SHERMAN MEANS BY THE RESUMPTION OF SPECIE PAYMENTS GERENBACKS NOT TO BE WITHORAWN PRON CIRCULATION.

CEMIT THEIR REPORT, MAKING VARIOUS

See The second of the second o

quiry from one of the clerks as to whether they would be granted a regular leave of absence for that time he said no; but they could just go and nothing would be deducted from their salaries. He in turn inquired of each of the clerks if the vote in his county was closs. One of them answering in the negative, he was recommended to remain in the city and send half the money which it would take to pay his expenses to the Ohio campaign committee, to be used during the election. He also requested the clerks who called upon him to make known to the other clerks what he had said to them.

TREASURY STATEMENT

SHOWING BATANLES ON HAND AND OUTSTANDIND LIMILITIES.

The Treasury now holds \$507,75,750 in
United States bonds to secure national bank
circulation and \$15,203,000 to secure public
deposits; United States bonds beld for circulation for week ending on Saturday,
\$40,740; United States bonds beld for circulation withdrawn for week ending on Saturday,
\$40,840; United States bonds beld for circulation withdrawn for week ending on Saturday,
\$40,840; National bank circulation outstanding. Currency notes, \$115,512,124; gold notes,
\$1,422,129; informal revenue, \$150,842,10; customs, \$102,745,33. Receipts of national bank
notes for redemption for the week ending on
Saturday, as compared with the corresponding
wook of last year:

1876. 1877.

ITS REPRESENTATIVES IN CONSULTATION WITH THE SENERTARY OF THE THAT AS IN WITH THE SENERTARY OF THE THAT AS IN MISLARION THE POUR-ANIAS ALADY TEXT LOAN.

The members of the syndicate we... in consultation Saturday evening with the Secretary of the Treasury and other officers of the Benariment. The accounts of the 11 per cent, lean were closed. The whole amount is \$200,000,003, of which \$183,000,000 was for refunding purposes, and \$15,000,000 for resumption purposes, and will appear in the next debt statement. The 4 per cent, lean is being rapidly paid for and adjusted, and will be settled during the next month, as the calls mature, the first call maturing on the 5th of October and the last on November 3, and \$5,000,000 each for the months of August, September and October will be applied for resumption purposes.

ACROSS THE OCEAN.

BY AN EYE-WITNESS.

BOMBARDMENT RENEWED BY THE

September 22, that Hidi Pasha, command-ing the convey of provisions for Osman Pasha, had arrived at Dabrik, two hours march from Plevos, having defeated fifteen Bussian bat-talions on the way. Osman Pasha has been requested to make a sortie to establish a junc-

AN AMBASSADOR'S PRIVATE INTERVIEW WITH THE SULTAN.

LONDON, Sept. 24.—A dispatch to the Times from Constantinople, via Syra, says: The Austrian ambassador, at a private interview with the Sultan, is reported to have spokes about the probability of Austrian mediation, and to have urged the greatest moderation upon the Sultan, pointing out the necessity of saving Russian amour people, because Germany would not be indifferent to Russian humiliation.

POLITICAL NEWS.

AT THE EXECUTIVE MANSION AND

THE WEST POINT VISITORS

HOWING BALANCES ON HAND AND OUT

THE SYNDICATE.

The response to "Who wants to be Consul Gen-eral at Pariet" comes Me. ms. ms. from a core of mouths, bond in their sudden praise of Prosident Hayes and his policy.

DESCRIPTION OF FRIDAY'S RATTLE

TURES AT SHIPKA PASS-THE BUSSIASS DEFEATED BY HIPSI PASHA OTHER

Lakenov, Sept. 23, Nothing has been received from Biela con-tradicting or confirming the reports of the battle there. A Rossian official buildin-dated Gorny-Studen, Saturday, says: The Turks renewed the bombardment of the Shipka Pass position on Priday from fourteen mortars. At one o'clock in the afternoon they began an assault on the right flank, but were repulsed. They then attacked the left and centre and were likewise repulsed. The fighting issted until night. It is thought the

again astronomic right. It is thought the attack will be renewed on Saturday.

Renter telegrams from Eucharest say persons arriving there from the headquarters of the Crarwitch at Doline Monastir, think the Turks will not renew the attack of Friday but will endeavor to cut the route to Tirnova.

tion with this force.

A Russian official dispatch admits a loss in the Shipks Pass on September 17 of thirty officers and one thousand men killed and wounded.